

NOV-13-2013 17:12 FROM:

TO:House Fax Server P.2/5



**The Circuit Court**  
**for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan**  
**1901 City-County Building**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48226**

**JOHN H. GILLIS, JR.**  
**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**

**AREA CODE 313**  
**TELEPHONE 224-7190**

November 13, 2013

Philip M. Cavanagh  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> District  
Minority Vice-Chair, Judiciary

**Fax:** (517) 373-5976

**Re: Senate Bill 653**

Dear Phil:

The House Judiciary Committee is currently considering Senate Bill 653, which cuts four seats from Wayne County Circuit Court effective January 1, 2015. This recommendation has come from the Supreme Court based upon caseload research done by the State Court Administrative Office. Recent caseload summaries from the Court Administrative Office show a decline in felony cases filed in Wayne County. In 2011, Wayne County had 16,732 criminal cases filed in circuit court, and in 2012 there were only 13,606 criminal cases filed. This decline is caused by a short-term problem in the criminal justice system. I believe the following factors have caused the decline in filings:

1. The arrests in Detroit are down due to a shortage in its Police personnel.
2. The Detroit Police morale is low due to the budget and bankruptcy in Detroit.
3. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is understaffed in the warrant section, and fewer warrants have been issued.

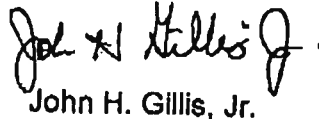
The Detroit Police Department will be making more arrests in the future once the budget situation improves. The warrant section of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office will be increasing the number of warrants issued due to the existence of private

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grants to employ more prosecutors. In the near future, the number of case filings is going to increase dramatically.

I believe the solution for this dilemma is for your Committee to amend Senate Bill 653 to cut two Wayne County seats effective January 1, 2015, and to cut two more seats effective January 1, 2017. This way your Committee will be following the recommendation of the Supreme Court, but will be able to review the statistics in the future to determine the appropriate number of Judges in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Gillis, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John H. Gillis, Jr.

Encl.